

Application No.: 10/714,336

Docket No.: JCLA11475

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejects claims 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tao et al. (US 6,316,828) in view of Stearns et al. (US 5,895,967), and further in view of Yamaura et al. (US 6,831,360). Since the Examiner does not accept Applicant's 12/21/2005 arguments for this 10/714,336 Application, Applicant withdraws the previous arguments and presents new claims to make the claimed invention patentable. Consideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims*I. New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38*

To have the combination of the cited prior arts, the primary cited US Patent No. 6,316,826 (Tao Patent), secondary cited US Patent No. 5,895,967 (Stearns Patent), and third cited US Patent No. 6,381,360 (Yamaura Patent), unable to teach the claimed inventions, "a metal layer" in the previous independent claim 20, currently cancelled, is revised to be "a first continuous gold (or nickel, or gold-nickel-alloy) layer," "a second continuous gold (or nickel, or gold-nickel-alloy) layer," and "a third gold (or nickel, or gold-nickel-alloy) layer."

Those Limitations defined in Applicant's New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38 are supported by the Specification of this Application. See Specification, paragraph [0015] and Fig.

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2B. In Fig. 2B and paragraph [0015], the metal layer 244 has three sections. The first section continuously covers the exposed surfaces of the ground pad 214 and the ground electrode 232b of the passive component 230. The second section also continuously covers the exposed surfaces of the power pad 216 and the power electrode 232a of the passive component 230. The third section covers the signal pad 218. Besides, the paragraph [0015] tells the metal layer 244 is made of nickel, gold, or nickel-gold alloy. Thus, those Limitations defined in **Applicant's New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38** follow the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

II. Patentability of New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38

Applicant's New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38 are patentable in view of the cited prior arts.

In Yamaura Patent, the gold plating layer 4b is **merely formed** on the surface of the substrate terminal 4a, but **not formed** on the connection terminal 3d of the chip part 3. See Yamaura Patent, col.10, lines 7-14. Thus, the **gold plating layer 4b** is **not continuously** on the surfaces of the ground pad and the ground electrode or is **not continuously** on the surfaces of the power pad and the power electrode.

However, in **Applicant's New Independent Claim 24**, the first **continuous gold layer** is on the exposed surfaces of the ground pad (substrate terminal) and the ground electrode (connection terminal), and the second **continuous gold layer** is on the exposed surfaces of the power pad (substrate terminal) and the power electrode (connection terminal). In **Applicant's New Independent Claim 31**, the first **continuous nickel layer** is on the exposed surfaces of the

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ground pad (substrate terminal) and the ground electrode (connection terminal), and the second **continuous nickel layer** is on the exposed surfaces of the power pad (substrate terminal) and the power electrode (connection terminal). **In Applicant's New Independent Claim 38**, the first **continuous gold-nickel-alloy layer** is on the exposed surfaces of the ground pad (substrate terminal) and the ground electrode (connection terminal), and the second **continuous gold-nickel-alloy layer** is on the exposed surfaces of the power pad (substrate terminal) and the power electrode (connection terminal). Therefore, **the combination of the cited prior arts cannot show every element of the claimed inventions.**

Besides, **Tao Patent and Stearns Patent** cannot give any suggestions, motivations, or teachings to the ordinary skilled in the art to further come out **continuous gold, nickel, or gold-nickel-alloy layers** in view of Yamaura Patent.

Since Yamaura Patent does not show the **features** of the **continuous gold, nickel, or gold-nickel-alloy layers** in **Applicant's New Independent Claim 24, 31, or 38**, the ordinary skilled in the art cannot rely on the cited prior arts to reach the claimed inventions. Thus, **Applicant's New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38** are deemed to be allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103.

III. New Dependent Claims 25-30, 32-37, and 39-43

Applicant's New Dependent Claims 25-30, 32-37, and 39-43 are supported by the Specification of this Application.

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According to paragraph [0013] and Fig. 2A of the Specification of this Application, a pattern solder mask layer 240 is on the surface of the carrier 210 (substrate). Besides, the layer 240 has several openings 242 and exposes the ground pad 214, power pad 216, and signal pad 218. Thus, these disclosures support the **New Dependent Claims 25-26, 32-33, and 39.**

In paragraph [0014] of the Specification of this Application, a passive component may be an inductor or a capacitor. Besides, the electrodes of the passive component may be made of Sn-Pb alloy. Hence, these disclosures support the **New Dependent Claims 27-29, 34-36, and 40-42.**

In Fig. 2A, it shows that a power pad 216 is located between a ground pad 214 and a signal pad 218. Therefore, Fig. 2A supports the **New Dependent Claims 31, 37, and 43.**

IV. Patentability of New Dependent Claims 25-30, 32-37, and 39-43

Since Applicant has successfully proved that **New Independent Claims 24, 31, and 38** are patentable, their **Dependent Claims 25-30, 32-37, and 39-43** should be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103, as well.

Additionally, **New Dependent Claims 27, 34, and 40** further claim that the passive component is an inductor. **New Dependent Claims 27, 34, and 40** should be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 on another ground because the cited prior arts do not teach an inductor.

In Tao Patent, only electronic parts 311 and 312 are told. *See* Tao Patent, col. 3, lines 40-45. In Stearns Patent, no passive components are shown. In Yamaura Patent, only resistors 3b, capacitors 3a, and thermistors 3c are mentioned. *See* Yamaura Patent, col. 9, lines 52-55. Thus,

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all cited prior arts teach no inductors, and do not motivate or suggest the ordinary skilled in the art to use inductors.

Since the combination of the cited prior arts cannot show an inductor, the ordinary skilled in the art cannot rely on the cited prior arts to reach the claimed inventions. Thus, **Applicant's New Dependent Claims 27, 34, and 40** are deemed to be allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103.

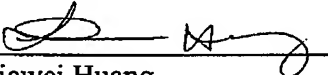
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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